

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039120

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. IRAQ HOLDS THE LINE

PRESIDENT BAKR HAS DISPATCHED PERSONAL ENVOYS TO ALGERIA AND LIBYA IN AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO BOLSTER THE REJECTION-IST FRONT IN THE FACE OF INDICATIONS THAT THE PLO IS COOPERATING WITH MODERATE ARAB REGIMES. USINT BAGHDAD REPORTS THAT THE GOI EVIDENTLY FEELS THAT THE STATEMENTS MADE BY PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND SECRETARY VANCE AT THE END OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ISRAEL GAVE IRAQ AN OPENING TO CHARGE THAT THE ISRAELI POSITION IS BECOMING MORE RIGID DESPITE ARAB CONCESSIONS, AND THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAS MOVED CLOSER TO THE ISRAELI INSISTENCE ON THE NEED TO REWRITE THE PLO
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COVENANT. (CONFIDENTIAL) BAGHDAD 349, 2/20.)

2. FRENCH COMMUNIST COMMENTS ON A LEFTIST GOVERNMENT

FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF) "FOREIGN MINISTER" JEAN KANAPA TOLD EMBASSY PARIS OFFICERS THAT A LEFTIST COALITION GOVERNMENT WOULD:

--SEEK TO SLOW THE INTERNATIONAL ARMS RACE BY SIGNING THE NPT, RESTRICTING THE EXPORT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY, AND PARTICIPATING IN CCD AND MBFR, BUT WOULD NOT DISARM UNILATERALLY NOR NECESSARILY RELINQUISH THE FORCE DE FRAPPE;

--WELCOME A RENEGOTIATION OF THE "OBSOLETE" NATO TREATY, BUT WOULD NOT WITHDRAW FROM THE ORGANIZATION; AND

--ATTEMPT TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH THE US/USSR 1971 AGREEMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR, AND IN OTHER WAYS BECOME A PARTNER IN DETENTE.

KANAPA ADDED THAT THE PRECISE ALLOCATION OF MINISTRIES IN A UNITED LEFT GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT MATTER, AS THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE MAJOR DECISIONS ON A COLLEGIAL BASIS. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT US VISA LAW CONCERNING COMMUNISTS WOULD BE OF INTEREST AT THE BELGRADE CSCE DISCUSSIONS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: CONTINUED ATTEMPTS OVER TWO YEARS TO MEET WITH KANAPA HAD BEEN MARKED BY TOTAL DISINTEREST ON THE PART OF THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS. IT WAS ONLY RECENTLY THAT WE LEARNED THAT SUCH A MEETING WAS NOW ACTUALLY BEING SOUGHT BY THE PCF. BOTH KANAPA AND PARTY FIRST SECRETARY MARCHAIS HAVE MADE RECENT STATEMENTS WHICH COULD BE READ AS GESTURES TOWARD THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION. ON THE SUBSTANCE, MOST OF KANAPA'S POINTS WERE STANDARD FARE. HIS
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INSISTENCE ON A COLLEGIAL UNITED LEFT GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, IS A NEW AND CLEAR STATEMENT THAT THE PCF DOES NOT INTEND TO ALLOW THE SOCIALISTS TO RUN THE MINISTRIES WHICH THEY RECEIVE. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 5058, 2/18.)

3. DANES SHIFT TO AWACS

THE PROJECT OFFICER FOR THE DANISH AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM (AWACS) TOLD EMBASSY COPENHAGEN ON FEBRUARY 17 THAT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS DECIDED THAT DENMARK SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE AWACS PROJECT, BUT WITH CONTRIBUTIONS OF ABOUT ONE PERCENT OF THE COST RATHER THAN THE ONE-AND-A-HALF PERCENT RECOMMENDED BY NATO. THE OFFICER CAUTIONED AGAINST REVEALING THE DECISION AT THIS TIME, SINCE THE ISSUE REMAINS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE IN DENMARK. HE ADDED THAT THE EVENTUAL ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH DANISH, NOT NATO, CHANNELS. (CONFIDENTIAL) COPENHAGEN 1065, 2/19.)
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